

## Dear Parent or Caregiver:

As part of Fire Prevention Week 2010, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" your child is learning about the importance of smoke alarms, the sound of a smoke alarm and what to do if a smoke alarm sounds in your home.

The **HOME SAFETY INVESTIGATION** below is a fun activity for your family to do together. Kids of all ages can be great detectives for finding many of the answers. You will have to do some searching around your home, but it will be well worth the effort.

I hope you will join me by putting Fire Prevention Week messages into action!

### 1 Location, location, location!

Is there at least one smoke alarm:

Inside each bedroom? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Outside all sleeping areas? ☐ Yes ☐ No

On every level of the home, including the basement? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Action Item:** Figure out how many smoke alarms you need to make each answer **YES**. (You need at least one on every level of your home, including the basement, outside all sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom.)

### 2 What have you got?

To find the answers to some of the questions below, look on the back of your smoke alarms. You'll have to take them down to do so, so make sure to put them back up.

What kind of smoke alarm do you have?

☐ photoelectric ☐ ionization ☐ combination photoelectric/ionization

**Action Item:** There are two types of smoke alarms; ionization type is generally more responsive to flaming fires and the photoelectric type is generally more responsive to fires that begin with a long period of smoldering. Make sure your home has both ionization and photoelectric or combination type alarms.

How old are your smoke alarms? \_\_\_\_\_ years old

**Action Item:** If your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, it's time to replace them.

Are your smoke alarms interconnected (this means when one sounds, they all sound)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Action Item:** If the answer is **NO**, think about interconnected smoke alarms for your home. Contact a licensed electrician to conduct the installation.

### 3 Practice makes perfect!

Does everyone in your home know the sound of the smoke alarm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

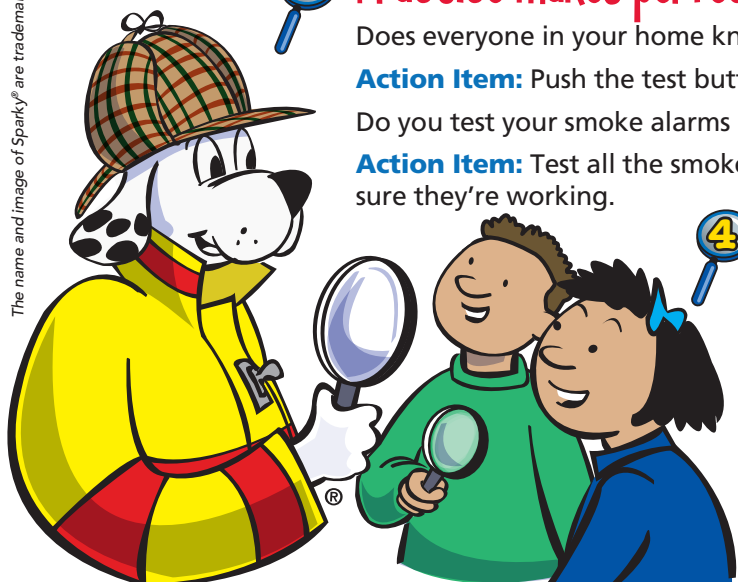
**Action Item:** Push the test button so everyone knows the sound of the alarm.

Do you test your smoke alarms each month? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Action Item:** Test all the smoke alarms in your home at least once a month to make sure they're working.

4 **Last but not least,** develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year so everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, and can get out safely.

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For more  
information visit  
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